
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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215 Front Street, PO 200
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2013 ERNEST SOUND HERRING SPAWN-ON-KELP POUND FISHERY

Wrangell....The Alaska Department of Fish and Game today announced the following information concerning the Ernest Sound herring spawn-on-kelp (SOK) pound fishery:

The total 2012-2013 Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) for the Ernest Sound (District 7) herring stock is 379 tons. The GHL for the Ernest Sound spawn-on-kelp pound fishery is any remaining GHL that is not harvested by the winter food and bait fishery or the bait pound fishery. The winter food and bait harvest in Ernest Sound is confidential. The remaining quota is large enough to accommodate for the 38 ton bait pound quota and still provide for a spawn-on-kelp fishery. **The remaining GHL for the Ernest Sound spawn-on-kelp fishery is within the 100 to 299 ton range.** That Guideline Harvest Range allows for the following amount of kelp to be used by qualified CFEC permit holders for the 2013 fishery (5 AAC 27.185) as follows:

Single-permit closed pounds: 200 blades,

Double-permit closed pounds: 400 blades per permit,

Triple-permit closed pounds: 500 blades per permit,

Single-permit open pounds: 150 fronds or 1,500 blades,

Multiple-permit open pounds: 450 fronds or 4,500 blades per permit.

The Ernest Sound area will be open for purse seining starting **12:00 noon, Monday, April 1, 2013.**

All pound operators are reminded they must have a current CFEC limited entry permit prior to introducing kelp or herring into their pounds. All *Macrocystis* kelp harvesters must have a kelp harvest permit prior to harvesting kelp for a closed or open pound. These permits must be in the possession of the pound operator and kelp harvester at all times during fishing operations. *Macrocystis* kelp permits are available in all southeast ADF&G offices.

Spawn-on-kelp fishermen and processors should read the SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST HERRING SPAWN-ON-KELP POUND FISHERY 2013 MANAGEMENT PLAN for an overview of the management approach and regulations for the 2013 season. That plan is expected to be available by March 15. The 2012-2013 STATEWIDE COMMERCIAL HERRING REGULATIONS booklet contains detailed regulations for this fishery.

If the Department determines that there is an unharvested portion of the guideline harvest level after the spawn-on-kelp fishery closes, that surplus will be allocated to the bait pound fishery. No bait pound permits will be issued after August 31 and any bait pound permits that are issued this season will expire on the last day of the season, September 30.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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